

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 - 41 (canceled)

Claim 42 (new): A metal pipe comprising a bent metal plate having parallel first and second edge sections in opposed and engaged position; and a male portion and a female portion respectively formed on said first and second edge sections, said male and female portions engaging each other and being locked together in a caulked portion formed by caulking with deformation of at least one of said male and female portions; wherein said metal pipe has a rectangular shape in section having four flat surfaces and four corners, and said caulked portion is formed on one of said four flat surfaces, and wherein one of said four flat surfaces has established therein a spring back force acting in a direction for urging said first and second edge sections to approach each other.

Claim 43 (new): A metal pipe according to claim 42, wherein said spring back force is established in a surface on which said caulked portion is provided.

Claim 44 (new): A metal pipe according to claim 42, wherein a plurality of male portions are formed on said first edge section and a plurality of female portions are formed on said second edge section, and wherein the male portions are respectively inserted into the female portions to engage them.

Claim 45 (new): A metal pipe according to claim 43, wherein a plurality of male portions are formed on said first edge section and a plurality of female portions are formed on said second edge section, and wherein the male portions are respectively inserted into the female portions to engage them.